

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 16, 2005

Chairman Christopher Dollar called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Approval for Minutes from November 2004 Meeting

- A motion was made by Commissioner Lowell Adams to adopt the November 2004 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Lawrence E. Julio seconded the motion. The November 2004 Meeting Minutes were adopted without changes.

Adjustments to the February 16, 2005 Wildlife Advisory Commission Agenda

- Chairman Dollar welcomed members of the waterfowl guide and outfitter community.
- Chairman Dollar made changes to the order of business.
 - 1) The Waterfowl Outfitters were given an opportunity to outline their concerns about the proposed Waterfowl Outfitter and Guide Regulations.
 - 2) Agenda item two, Recent “Lands for Sale” Rumors by Gene Piotrowski, Director of Resource Planning was moved to item number three on the agenda.

Code of Maryland Regulations 08.03.13 Waterfowl Outfitting and Guiding Regulations

- Chairman Dollar asked the waterfowl outfitters to introduce themselves before speaking on the regulations [Attachment A]. (Note: not all members identified themselves.)

Mr. Tyler Johnson outlined several concerns of the outfitters. There are four major concerns:

 - 1) Remove the requirement of individual guides license.
 - (i) The outfitters feel that this requirement would cause a burden to the outfitters. This mandate would require the outfitters to use license guides to take out guiding parties. The group was reminded that this would require a law change and cannot be remedied in the proposed regulations.
 - (ii) The nature of this business is part-time; as a result, the outfitters should keep adequate records on guides, not the State.
 - (iii) The outfitters have more experience; therefore, they are qualified to decide who may or may not work for them.
 - 2) Concern with possible duplication of records in the proposed regulations. The new record keeping proposals calls for the hunter’s license number, name, address, and social security number on a daily log by guides; and a report by the outfitters.
 - 3) The apprenticeship time-period should remain at three years not two years.
 - 4) Requested that the guides to be able to harvest two birds during the 2-bird bag limit Canada Goose Season.
- In addition, the newly formed Waterfowl Outfitters Association asked for an official seat on the WAC.
 - (a) Director Paul A. Peditto requested that the members of the Waterfowl Outfitters Community Association to submit their recommendation in a formal written request.
 - (b) Chairman Dollar reminded the group that the WAC’s purpose is to help guide Wildlife and Heritage and the Secretary in making wildlife conservation decisions. The Wildlife Advisory Commission does not have the authority to establish statute or regulations.
- Finally, the outfitters commended the Department on the regulation process and allowing the outfitters and guides several opportunities to voice their concerns.

Recent “Lands for Sale” Rumors

- Presentation by Gene Piotrowski, Director of Resource Planning
- A year ago, all the State agencies were asked to review public lands from the standpoint of financial responsibility and access management. The Department did an inventory audit to determine which lands are not being utilized and/or failed to meet the Department’s mission.
- This was the first time that the Department reviewed its inventory of lands. The Department is the largest land custodian agency in Maryland; the lands are located all over the State.
- Process: Mr. Piotrowski quoted author Mark Twain, “Gratitude and treachery are merely the two extremities of the same procession. You have seen all of it that is worth staying for when the band and the gaudy officials have gone by.” The Department had good intentions, but unfortunately, the way things were disseminated to the public it looked as if treacherous activities had taken place.
- The process used in evaluating lands for excess potential [Attachment B]. The lands with minimal resources value or/and lands that are isolated or detached from main unit of property were decisive factors.

- The Department selected 64 lands [Attachment C] for transfer of ownership to other State agencies, county governments, etc.
- Properties that were purchased with federal dollars, the Department would need to obtain permission from the Department of Interior to be able to sell the properties.

DNR Legislative Update

- Presentation by Mark Hoffman, Associate Director of Administration
- Mark Hoffman handed out Profile – WHS Tracking Legislation – 2005 [Attachment D] and outlined each bill listed.
 - 1) HB 128 Entitled Natural Resources – Anne Arundel County – Deer Hunting on Private Lands - Sundays
 - 2) HB 258 Entitled Natural Resources – Howard County – Steel Jaw Leghold Trap Prohibition Ho. Co. 6-06
 - 3) HB 339 Criminal Law- Prohibition Against Wild Animals as Pets
 - 4) HB 371 Entitled Natural Resources – Black Bear - Prohibition
 - 5) HB 372 Entitled Natural Resources – Leghold Traps Prohibition
 - 6) HB 380 Entitled Natural Resources – Wild Waterfowl Hunting – Tidal Potomac River
 - 7) HB 438 Entitled Natural Resources – Withdrawn Environmental Matters – Montgomery County – Deer Management Permits – Hunting Devices MC 517-05
 - 8) HB 608 Entitled Natural Resources – Nonresident Junior Hunting License – Establishment
 - 9) HB 972 Entitled Hunting – Endangered and Threatened Species – Incidental Taking – Puritan Tiger Beetle
 - 10) HB 1086 Entitled Natural Resources – Hunting – Closure of State Lands
 - 11) HB 1173 Entitled Natural Resources – Powers, Limitations, and Procedures – Wildlife [Attachment E]
 - 12) SB 296 Criminal Law – Prohibition Against Wild Animals as Pets
 - 13) SB 432 Election Law – Boater Voter

Wildlife and Heritage Service FY05 and FY 06 Budget Update

- Fiscal Year 06 is being reviewed by DBM.
- DNR vehicle fleet will be reduced for the FY 06 Budget Year.
- The Commission should creatively develop other funding resources.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update

- No Report

State Forest and Park Service Update

- No Report

Natural Resource Police Update

- Presentation by Sergeant Kelly Johnson
- Sergeant Johnson provided summary of NRP activity from October 20, 2004 through February 9, 2005 [Attachment F].

2005 Wildlife Advisory Commission Working Agenda

- Commissioners were given a draft of the 2005 WAC Working Agenda [Attachment G].
- Chairman Dollar requested that the members get comments to him and Tracey Spencer.
- Chairman Dollar mentioned that attendance is important to be able to remain on the Commission.

Leghold Traps Discussion

- Presentation by Robert Colona, Furbearer Biologist
- Presented a video on how leghold traps are safely used to manage furbearer species.
- Commissioner Lamp requested that this issue be brought to the attention of the public for input. The trapping regulations are reviewed by the public every two years regulatory process for the seasons and bags limits.
- Commissioner Lamp made a motion for the Commission to support WHS' initiation of a public regulation hearing discussion on the use of "steel-jawed" leghold traps [Attachment H]. No one seconded the motion.

Old Business

- The Operational Guidelines for the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee of the Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission [Attachment I] were adopted by this Commission on July 21, 2004.
- Commission members should draft a list of two or three names for the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee and get the list to Chairman Dollar by March 31, 2005.
- Chairman Dollar will contact former Chairman Tim Lambert since Mr. Lambert helped develop the concept of the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee.

New Business

- Dr. Lamp requested that the WAC have Dr. Cindy Driscoll added to the April 20, 2005 agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Attendance

Members:	L. Adams, R. Brown, C. Dollar, G. Fratz, W. Freeland, L. Julio, J. Lamp
Guests:	Members of the Waterfowl Outfitters Committee Association
Staff:	B. Beyer, S. Bittner, K. Blizzard, R. Colona, B. Eyler, M. Hoffman, D. Hotton, P. Jayne, P. Peditto, G. Piotrowski, K. Johnson, T. Spencer, G. Timko
Absent:	R. Pascal, J. Scarborough, K. Fuchs